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SAVA 73-139

23 July 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR:

[redacted]
Assistant Deputy Director for Operations

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SUBJECT

: Proposed Note to Dr. Kissinger on
"Strength of CIA Station in
South Vietnam"

1. The phased curtailment of the Saigon Station's strength by about 25% over the next two years recommended by Mr. Shackley on the basis of a reassessment in which Mr. Polgar participated seems to me a wise move on two counts:

- a. Its intrinsic merits.
- b. The fact that if we are curtailing our own strength, we will be in a better position to encourage our military colleagues and, [redacted] to trim their complements to the size that is really needed.

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2. As a point of advocacy -- not substance -- I would suggest for your consideration the following language as a possible alternative to the final sentence in the first paragraph of the proposed note to Dr. Kissinger:

We would therefore propose to implement the conclusions of this reassessment by making these reductions incrementally

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over the next two years. This proposal is of course based on the planning assumptions that there will be no sharp rise in active military operations in South Vietnam over the next two years nor any major, nationwide political crisis in that country. If the actual course of events should render either of these planning assumptions invalid, we would naturally have to reconsider the strength reductions envisaged in this proposal.

George A. Carver, Jr.

George A. Carver, Jr.
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

cc: Mr. Shackley



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O/DCI/SAVA:GACarver/mee

Orig - Addressee

1 - C/EA

1 - C/VNO

1 - Memos From EA/VNO

1 - GAC Chrono ✓

1 - VAS Chrono

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